

10/583068

Atty. Dkt. No. 033946-1401
iAP20 Rec'd PCT/P10 15 JUN 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ng Fong Po et al.

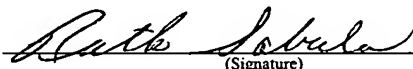
Title: METHODS AND COMPOUNDS
FOR ALTERING THE LOAD OF
HEPATITIS VIRUS

PCT Appl. PCT/SG2004/000368
No.:

International 11/12/2004
Filing Date:

Examiner: Unknown

Art Unit: Unknown

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a request to file a national stage application based on PCT/SG2004/000368 which has an international filing date of November 12, 2004. Please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this document.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: